

CPS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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Regulations

- On January 1st, 2012, new child restraint system and booster seat requirements became mandatory. A 19-month transition period allowed manufacturers to make the necessary design modifications to their seats and testing equipment while continuing to supply the Canadian market with restraint systems that provide a high level of safety.

What are the new Regulations?

- The new regulations for car seats ([Motor Vehicle Restraint Systems and Booster Seats Safety Regulations](#)) are an upgrade to the previous regulations.
- These regulations were rewritten to align with the United States on many issues and to incorporate some new and unique Canadian testing requirements.
- The new regulations ensure an appropriate minimum level of safety for children while using the most up-to-date technology available for testing.

What has changed?

- a lap/shoulder seat belt testing requirement for all types of car seats, since lap/shoulder belts have been commonly found in most vehicles for several years;
- changes to child seats' dynamic testing to adopt most of the U.S. testing parameters
- changing the definition of an infant from up to **9** kg, to up to **10** kg;
- an increase in the maximum allowable weight limit of child seats from **22** kg to **30** kg;

What has changed? *(Continued)*

- an introduction of dynamic testing requirements for booster seats;
- extending the limitation on rebound to all rear facing child seats; and
- the allowance of harnesses to be certified for usage on school buses for special needs children.

What is the Difference between Canada and the U.S.?

- The need for labels, information, and instructions to be provided in both official languages;
- The minimum weight requirement to use a booster seat remains at 18 kg (40 lbs.), versus 13.6 kg (30 lbs.) in the US;
- The mandatory use of a tether strap for front-facing child seats;
- A mandatory inversion test for both infant and child seats;

What is the Difference between Canada and the U.S.? *(Continued)*

- A unique booster deflection test;
- The lap/shoulder seat belt testing requirement for all types of car seats;
- The extension of the limitation on rebound to all rear facing child seats; and
- Energy absorbing material requirements.

Rebound Control Mechanisms



Upright or forward
infant handle



Plastic or
foam bolster



Anti Rebound Bar



I have a seat I bought before 2012. Can I still use it?

- Yes. If your seat was purchased **in Canada** before 2012, but is **not expired**, has not been in a **collision**, and does not have any **damage** to the shell or materials it can still be used until its expiry.
- All seats being used in Canada must possess the National Safety Mark. All non-expired Canadian seats will have this mark on them.



Why Do Car Seats Have Expiry Dates?

- frequent use and exposure to sunlight can damage and weaken plastic;
- safe-use labels on the products fade or become hard to read;
- instruction manuals have likely been lost;
- food, cleaners, drinks and other materials that have been spilled or used on webbing, buckles, adjusters and other parts may prevent them from working safely;
- the history or condition of the car seat or booster cushion becomes hard to check (was it in a collision, was it stored in a place or in a way that caused damage to parts, etc.);

Why Do Car Seats Have Expiry Dates?

(Continued)

- safety regulations and standards may have changed, so improved products may now be on the market; and
- second or subsequent owners may not get product safety recall notices if problems arise.

Can I sell/give away seats that do not meet the new standards?

- It is important to note that if you own a car seat or booster seat made before January 1, 2012, under Health Canada's *Canada Consumer Product Safety Act*, you may not be able to advertise, sell, or give it (including lending) away because it may not meet the latest requirements set out by Health Canada and Transport Canada.
- The Canada Consumer Product Safety Act (CCPSA) specifies in section 6. "No person shall manufacture, import advertise, or sell a consumer product that does not meet the requirements set out in the regulations."

Can I sell/give away seats that do not meet the new standards? *(Continued)*

- Sell is further defined as
- Sell: includes offer for sale, expose for sale or have in possession for sale — or distribute to one or more persons, whether or not the distribution is made for consideration — and includes lease, offer for lease, expose for lease or have in possession for lease. This includes distribution of a consumer product, when the product is donated or given away at no cost.

The CCPSA can be found at: <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-1.68/index.html>

More information about the CCPSA can be found at: <http://hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/legislation/acts-lois/ccpsa-lcspc/index-eng.php>

Where Can I get more info on new Standards?

- The information I have provided you comes from Transport Canada: <http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/roadsafety/safedriverson-childsafety-faq-1131.htm>

What are the UAS weight limits?

- Some of the child seat manuals have added in upper weight limit information for the UAS (LATCH) anchors on their seats.
- The vehicle instructions may also have an upper weight limit for using the lower UAS anchors.
- Always refer to the manufacturer's instructions. Read the manuals for the vehicle and the child seat.
- Follow the instructions for whichever weight limit is reached first.
- Commonly max weights are 40 lbs., or 48 lbs. If it does not state, assume the max will be a 40 lbs. child.
- If a child weight is more than what the manual specifies, simply use the seat belt for installation.

Weight Guidelines

- The Canadian Pediatrics Society last updated their policy statement on CPS in April of 2008:
<http://www.cps.ca/english/statements/ip/ip08-01.htm>
- RF until at least 1 year, 10 kg (22 lbs.), walking unassisted
- FF with harness until at least 18 kg (40 lbs.). Since 2007 seats available to 30 kg (65 lbs.)
- Booster until seat belt fits. Commonly 36 kg (80 lbs.), 9 years of age, and 145 cm (4'9")

When Should I turn my child Front Facing?

- The longer a child can stay in each stage of car seat the better.
- It is best practice to turn a child front facing once they have outgrown their rear facing seat.
- Some infant seats now can accommodate up to a 35 lb. child. Some convertibles can accommodate up to 45 lbs.

I have a small vehicle what RF seats work best?


- Its always a good idea to test a RF seat in your vehicle before purchase. Many infant carriers allow the handle to be up, saving space. Some smaller infant seats are:



Chicco Keyfit



Baby Trend Flex Loc



Many new convertibles now have dual stage level lines, allowing for more upright position with older children.

Forward Facing?

- By law a child must stay in a harnessed seat until they are at least 40 lbs.
- Many Forward Facing seats now can accommodate a child to 65 lbs.
- Again, it is best practice for a child to outgrow their forward facing seat before moving to a booster.

I have a tall child, which FF seat is best?

- It is always a good idea to take your child shopping and fit them for a seat.
- Some seats have higher FF shoulder slots than others. Have a look at the seats here today. Some tall seats are:



Diono Radian RXT



Graco Nautilus



Britax Frontier

Booster to Seat Belt

A child should stay in a booster until they fit the seat belt of the vehicle they are in:

- Does the child's knees bend over the vehicle's seat edge without the child slouching
- Does the lap portion of the vehicle seat belt lay on the child's hips and not across the stomach?
- Does the shoulder portion lay across the shoulder, not against the neck ?
- Can the child sit in the proper position for the entire ride.

Booster to Seat Belt *(Continued)*

If any of the answers is **No**, the child should still be in a booster.

- Some boosters now have upper weight limits of 120 lbs.
- The average child is between the ages of 8-12 when they are ready for a seat belt in most vehicles.

Common Concerns

- The harness won't tighten enough around my newborn.
- I find it difficult to tighten the harness in my new convertible seat Rear Facing.
- I can't tighten the harness enough in my Forward Facing seat.
- My Forward seat will not tighten evenly
- I can't get my seat tight in the vehicle.

Certification Requirements

- Many Technicians were decertified last year due to not meeting the minimum amount of seats checked
- It is a national standard that all technicians must send in at least 10 completed child restraint check sheets from January 1 to December 31.
- The purpose of this standard is to ensure that technicians are using their skills and keeping them current.
- If you are having problems getting your checks, please contact me and we can work together to get your checks.

ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?

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